



News Release

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January Dedicated “Hire a Veteran Month”

INDIANAPOLIS (Jan. 6, 2006) -- The Indiana Department of Workforce Development (IDWD) has dedicated January as “Hire a Veteran Month” and is gearing up to make employers more aware of the benefits of hiring the state’s veteran servicemen and servicewomen.

“We are committed to providing veterans with the information and services to help make the transition from the military to civilian workforce 365 days a year, but in January we want to focus attention on the benefits to employers of hiring veterans as well as promote the array of veterans employment services the state currently offers,” said Ron Stiver, Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Workforce Development.

Employers who hire certain veterans may be eligible for a tax credit under the Work Opportunities Tax Credit program. Under this program, the employers may receive the tax credit if they hire a veteran who received food stamp assistance for any 3 month period during the 15-month period ending on the hiring date.

Governor Daniels has sent a letter to the IDWD praising the agency’s efforts for promoting its employment services to veterans, which are available throughout Indiana at the state’s 26 WorkOne employment centers.

Stiver said the IDWD offers specific job placement for qualified veterans through local WorkOne Centers. For purposes of this service, a veteran is defined as:

- Any individual who served more than 180 days on active duty (not for Reserve or National Guard training).
- Any individual who served on active duty and was released because of a service connected illness or injury. (Does not have to meet the 180-day rule)
- Any individual who was in the National Guard or Reserves and was called to active duty during a war or in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge is authorized. (Examples are Panama, Grenada, Haiti, Beirut, Persian Gulf, Desert Shield, Desert Storm or the war in Iraq. There is no requirement that you served in that area.)

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Among the array of services offered by the state to veterans are personalized reviews of their job matching files, direct referral to jobs, job search material and information, assistance in preparing resumes and cover letters, referrals to local, state and federal agencies, case management to overcome barriers to employment, assessment through WorkKeys for profiled jobs, and vocational guidance.

The local WorkOne Centers have staff members who work directly with veterans. The Local Veteran Employment Representative (LVER) works with all qualified Veterans and assists them with their employment needs. The Disabled Veteran Outreach Program Representative (DVOP) works closely with disabled Veterans and assists them with case management and other services to help them overcome barriers to employment.

According to the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs, 422 Hoosier Army Guardsmen/Reservists will return from overseas deployments in the first quarter of 2006. A similar number of Air Guard/Reserves are also scheduled to return during this period. Indiana is currently home to nearly 570,000 veterans.